

And all the time as I walk home
 I watch the sun go down ;
 It makes our grim old city look
 Like New Jerusalem town.
 And I have such sweet fancies come
 I never had before :
 When you've none else to talk with you,
 I think God talks the more.

When first Will went, I longed to die,
 But now I wait content ;
 As parson says, "When comforts go,
 The Comforter is sent."
 Yet, oh ! how glad I'll meet with Will,
 And tell him it came true
 When he said, "Polly, dear old girl,
 God will look after you."

ISABELLA FYVIE MAYO.

GARDENING IN JANUARY.



THERE is no mincing the matter. We had better say at once, that of all the months in the year January is the one generally in which we can do the least in the garden. At the same time, we do not, of course, mean

that there is positively nothing to do at all ; otherwise, *cui bono* ? For what purpose can we have headed our paper, "Gardening in January" ? On the contrary, those of us who do not intend to plead Christmas festive gatherings, coughs, sore throats, and winter catarrh as an excuse for keeping in-doors, may perhaps be even astonished to find that there was more to do than they had any idea of.

But how cold the top of our nose felt this morning on awaking, and there was that peculiar and painful glare of light about the room ; a hasty peep through the window-pane, that Nature in one of her most fantastic sports had converted during a single night into ground-glass, revealed the secret of the whole. There was a heavy fall of snow, and it was still descending—white, thick, fast, and silent.

First, then, let us make haste and get the brooms, for a path must be swept up to the front gates and round the garden generally ; and next we recollect that the roof of our quaint old country house is very eccentric, and that there is a sort of moat on the top, which must be cleared of the snow before the thaw comes ; so where are the ladders and shovels ? Otherwise, those who sleep at the top of the house will probably be enjoying a water-bed in a very short time.

But, alas ! we cannot get on to the land to-day ; yet, strange as it may sound to some of our readers, the snow is a very good gardener, and a very obliging and cheap one into the bargain, for it comes without being ordered, and never expects any wages. Still less shall we grumble at him after reading the following paragraph, which we take from Johnson's admirable "Gardener's Dictionary" :—

"Snow is one of the gardener's best shelters, and should never be removed from his out-door crops. It prevents heat from radiating from them ; protects them from freezing, drying blasts ; and, being a bad conductor of heat, thus prevents its escape from them. I have never known the surface of the earth, below a covering of snow, colder than 32°, even when the temperature of the air above has been 28°."

Positively, then, snow would seem to be nature's cider-down quilt, so never let us abuse it again. In addition to all this, it has some properties which make it serve as an actual manure. Indeed, was it not for this that last month we were digging and trenching the soil well—and probably, when the weather admits of it, we shall do so again—so as to let both frost and snow act upon the soil and destroy the slugs ? One word of caution before leaving this interesting subject of snow. A large proportion of our green-houses and conservatories are, we know, built immediately adjoining our houses themselves. Where this is the case, the importance of clearing off the snow from the roof under which we dwell, and the care that should be exercised in throwing it over, is at once apparent. Who has not known many green-houses terribly damaged, and their contents fatally injured, by this lazy neglect to prepare in anticipation of a thaw ? Only conceive the result of an avalanche from your house-top in the middle of the night on to your glass below ! Crash it goes in all directions, and then what becomes of the unhappy flowers and cuttings so green and gay inside ?

Now, again, let us suppose that the thaw has come, and the weather completely changed, for in this variable climate of ours we think nothing of leaping from one season to another in the course of a single week. The time of year is no sure criterion of the temperature we may expect. Part of last October, *e.g.*, was much hotter than most of the preceding May and June ; we had tropical heat during the first weeks of August, but enjoyed a good fire before its close. The snow, then, having disappeared—though it will as surely return again in due course—the opportunity should at once be seized for turning up any piece of land that has hitherto been neglected, and the entire beds, by way of preparation for vegetable seed crops, should be also generally forked over. This, however, cannot be done *immediately* after a thaw, but it is better to choose a fairly dry and crisp morning after a slight frost. Where the weather will admit of it, trees

of all kinds may be planted in the fruit garden and orchard; attention, too, should now be paid to general pruning and nailing. Around the stem of your wall fruit-trees that have hitherto shown a disposition to grow rapidly, and with strength, it is a good plan towards the end of the month to remove some of the soil, and carefully prune their roots. This I have always found successful; and, indeed, where it is not done you will often find your trees abundant in their foliage merely, but the supply of fruit very scanty. Gooseberries and currants may also now be manured, and the trees may be pruned, though no harm will be done if the pruning be postponed to the following month.

Just about this time the birds become very troublesome by picking out the heart of so many buds on our trees; yet somehow it generally seems to come right in the end, notwithstanding their feasting. But there is a limit to all things, and perhaps a few scarecrows might be used with advantage. The sparrow, however, is unfortunately one of those birds who are "not to be caught by chaff." White thread all along your trees, or a glass bottle with a stone suspended inside to rattle against it, or two pieces of any old metal hung up in the tree so as to strike one another—all these are good remedies for the evil; but don't throw down poisoned corn: it is cruel, dangerous, and illegal. On the other hand, recollect that the birds are also feeding upon the caterpillar tribe, and that their destruction, even when you imagine that their depredations are becoming excessive, may nevertheless be undesirable.

Peas by the end of the month might again be sown, while should those that you put in late in the autumn be now showing their green tops above the ground, they will, as we observed upon a former occasion, require protection: cover them over with dry leaves that are in a half-decayed state, or earth them up on the side which exposes them to cold winds; while against the attacks of slugs have recourse, as before, to soot and lime, putting down your line of defence parallel with your row of peas, and at some three or four inches distance from them. Sea-kale and rhubarb can be easily forced by placing over your plant a large pot, and then well covering the pot with a plentiful supply of hot manure; but I really think that the very insipid flavour—or rather, let us say, the

absence of flavour—which the majority of fruits and vegetables out of season generally possess, hardly repays the grower for the trouble and expense they entail. Asparagus in February, and strawberries in March, are pretty to look at, and, for those who delight in extravagance, something to be proud of, but an old-fashioned devotee of the Lord Mayor's table in days gone by would not have thanked you for them.

Now, let us get once more among the flowers under glass. Camellias—the early ones, at least—are rapidly swelling; and when this is the case, the plants will require a regular supply of water, otherwise the buds are almost sure to drop off. Do not, again, forget that they cannot endure heat. There is certainly some difficulty in managing your flowers well where there is only one general greenhouse for the purpose of preserving your plants in the winter. On this account I have known many abandon their endeavours to rear camellias, as, of course, in severe weather careful attention must be paid to the stove. Naturally, therefore, if you intend to persevere, put them in the coolest part of your house, and as far away from the fire-end of it as you can. The fire, by the way, if well banked up with ashes, say at ten o'clock, ought to burn easily until the early morning; but a careful gardener will again be at his stove quite as early as 5 a.m. One single bitter night that you allow to overtake you unawares, and the effect is fatal. How mortifying to walk into your house some bright morning at the end of the month, or early in February, to see your cinerarias that were just bursting into bloom all toppled over! Very little watering will be necessary this month, yet it is a good plan to keep a large pail or can of it always in the house, in order to have it of the same temperature. This is of vital importance, and we adverted to it last month. The probability is that most of the time we devote to gardening at this season of the year will be in the greenhouse, and we shall therefore be able to get it into an exceptionally tidy and orderly condition, free alike from dirt and insects. Towards the close of the month re-potting will be necessary where your plants are free-growers.

Very soon we shall be on the look-out for the tops of the crocuses, listening for the first notes of the thrush, and preparing for the season of hope—spring.



PAST AND PRESENT.

SEE her now, as she appeared
When days were young, and life was long,
Fresh as the balmy Spring, that lives
In poets' song.

The golden shimmer of her hair,
The eyes of deep and tender blue,
The witching beauty of her form,
Rise to my view.

that if an object is intended to stand upright, a piece of the paper about an inch wide should be folded back on the side which is to be at the bottom, and when the object is cut out, this can be turned straight out to be level with the table, and so support the figure. Some things do not need this support: a chair, for instance. To make it, take a piece of stiff paper about two inches long and one inch broad. Divide this into three across the breadth, and mark the divisions closely with the thumb-nail. Cut a strip about a sixth of the width at each side of the two outer third portions to make the legs of the chair. Turn these strips down till they are perpendicular with the middle portion. Cut away the paper between the two front legs, and ornament the back of the chair as fancy dictates. Tables and stools may be made on the same principle. To make animals, double the paper, and cut out the shape of the side of the animal. Be careful to make its legs square at the bottom, then open it very little, and it will stand on its four legs. To facilitate operations, the outline of the figure may be drawn before it is cut, and it may afterwards be improved by a few touches with pen or pencil. For human figures, the paper should be doubled, and the figures drawn in profile, and made to stand by being provided with good-sized feet. To make a house, take a piece of paper, turn back a piece at the bottom for it to stand on, then fold it in four lengthwise, and press thereon the divisions plainly. Turn back the two ends a little to make the sides of the house. Cut out the shape of the house, with roof and chimneys, then make the windows and door, being careful not to cut off the paper in forming these—in the case of the windows it can be folded back to form shutters.

A pennyworth of beads, with a needle and thread, will keep little children interested for a long time. They can make elaborate rings with a jewel of beads in

the centre, chains, &c. I have seen scent-bags of beads made by quite little children, which were exceedingly pretty.

Drawing, too, is an occupation which children almost always enjoy. If possible, each one should have a slate and pencil, with a sponge tied to it to rub the slate clean. If the mother or nurse is able to direct the efforts of the children, so much the better.

Very pretty water-lilies may be made out of oranges as follows:—Take a sharp knife, and cut the skin of the oranges into sections, beginning at the top. Be careful not to pierce the fruit itself, and also to leave a small circle about a quarter of an inch in diameter at the stalk end of the orange untouched. Loosen these portions of skin from the orange so as not to break them, roll each one, and leave it rolled at the bottom of the orange. Divide the orange itself into sections, and do not separate them, but leave them joined near the bottom. Take the rolls of skin and place the tip of each one on the top of the orange, which will then assume an appearance somewhat resembling that of a half-opened water-lily. A dish of oranges prepared in this way has a very pretty effect.

Of course, it is evident that arranging for these little employments for the children involves a certain amount of trouble to the elders; but is it not worth while? By such means, children may be kept happy and contented instead of being mischievous and cross. They may acquire habits of industry and observation which they will retain through life. They may exhibit powers, the possession of which without these means would have been unsuspected. In short, the amusement of the child may be made a part of his education, and that not only without trouble, but with a great deal of pleasure to himself.

PHILLIS BROWNE.

GARDENING IN FEBRUARY.



the general appearance of things. And here again, at the outset, we must have recourse to hardy and herbaceous plants: the golden pyrethrum, e.g.—

CARRYING out our

November suggestions for a garden that is to be fairly bright all the year round, and as there are yet some three months before we can hope for any great variety of colour, let us first see what we can still do among the beds on the lawn to improve

the common feverfew—which, besides making an excellent border when the bedding-out time comes, is an admirable winter-garden plant, and is very often on that account allowed to remain in the beds when the other plants—geraniums, &c.—are taken up in October. Its foliage being a bright pale green, it has certainly a gay appearance, but the less said about its odour the better; perhaps some persons may appreciate its rank bitter, but for my part I sympathise with the bees, to which it is exceedingly obnoxious. Indeed, it has been said that they can be kept at a distance by carrying about in the hand a few of its flowers. These last, however, do not make their appearance much before July. Well, to go on with our spring “bedding-out”—we will call it spring for the sake of pleasing our friends at the window—next get, say, a few roots of the double-daisy, white, red, and pink. Interspersed among these might well be put in with advantage some little tufts of blue forget-me-not (*Myosotis dissitiflora*); of course, we are speaking here

only of the hardy perennial kind. The forget-me-not is easily and cheaply to be had. Next put in some polyanthus, a well-known and popular spring-flower, or some pendulous catchfly (*Silene pendula*), which is a very bushy plant, and is not afraid of the winter. It makes excellent beds. Dwarf wallflower, if put in now, will bloom in March. A little more expensive, perhaps, is the hepatica, which will soon flower if put in at once; this can be bought in roots, double pink and single blue. Snowdrops and crocuses, too, will soon be making their appearance in a mild season. But with all these early harbingers of the coming spring avoid formality in your flower-beds. Violets and daffodils, &c., ought never to be disturbed; they want no great depth of earth, and will thrive well almost anywhere—in any out-of-the-way place, under a wall, or under a tree. We cannot expect, of course, to see our “daffidillies” in bloom yet; but to those of us who take pleasure in watching for the first burst of spring, there is almost an infatuation in noticing the daily progress our flower-garden is making.

To have at least one hot-bed just now is most useful, for towards the latter end of the month tender annuals should be sown in pots, and the pots then immersed in your hot-bed; indeed, hardy annuals may be sown in the open, if the situation be a sheltered one, by the end of February. To do this, make a small drill with the old-fashioned stick of fire-wood. Let your drill be in a circle, with a diameter of some six inches. The soil of the border should first of all, of course, have been loosened and made fine. One end of your stick might be slightly sharpened for more easy insertion in the ground, and along one side of it, which should be cut smooth and broad, should be written the name of your flower; put your stick in the middle of the circle after you have lightly covered over your seeds. If sudden severity of weather should afterwards set in, place a flower-pot over each of your seed-plots until the plants are well above ground. We must again remind the more eager and impetuous of our gardeners to be particularly cautious, in this planting season, not to disturb those borders in which bulbs are growing; one good bruise or cut to your subterranean tulip or hyacinth means death to it.

But the greenhouse, the greenhouse. Look out now for the damp. The constant succession that we have been having of rain, snow, fog, frost, and thaw, coupled with the absence of sun, renders your house more particularly liable to damp in the month of St. Valentine. In the middle of the day, therefore, have a fire in your stove, and give air at the top of your glass at the same time; this will let out the damp. Look over your pots generally, and see that their drainage is what it ought to be. If the soil in them looks dark and unusually moist, and the pot itself feels unduly heavy when you lift it, the only remedy is at once to repot your plant. A good day of tidying up in your greenhouse when your fire is in will well repay your labours by the evening; you will find by the end of the day quite a collection of dead leaves and small weeds to be taken away. In a good season some of your flowers will be beginning to make a start, and give symptoms

that an early repotting will be necessary. This is a tedious work, and gardeners are too often fond of shirking it. But to say at any time of the year that there is nothing to do in the garden is simply an absurdity.

The necessary operations in the kitchen and fruit gardens must next occupy us. Frequently we have frosts in February, almost as severe as in the preceding month; when this is the case, a good trenching of all unoccupied ground is of great service to the soil. The land may be so hard that a pickaxe may be necessary to break through its surface; the pick will each time lift up probably a large frozen lump of earth; break up this, and throw the fragments into the bottom of your trench; you can then proceed in the ordinary way with your fork. By this process, a still further portion of the surface of the soil will thus be exposed to the severity of the weather, which is the very thing you want. The result—especially where you leave the topsoil in ridges instead of leaving it level, in order to catch more of the frost—will be that many slugs will be destroyed, and your land as good as manured, and in the best condition afterwards for getting in your crops.

Should we, however, have had a long frost in January, and your soil have been already prepared to benefit by it, with the break-up of the weather in the present month you will be able to proceed with your sowing. We have frequently remarked on former occasions how unreasonable, and in fact impossible, it would be to lay down unvarying rules for a variable climate like our own when treating of horticulture. Hence we have generally contrived to suppose the two extremes of heat and cold in the same month, and varied our directions accordingly.

But we have just now supposed some good open weather that has followed upon a long run of frost, so we shall venture upon some sowing, at any rate. Get in, then, some more peas—sowing, say, every three weeks, so as to have a succession of crops. Your quantity you will vary in accordance with your consumption.

Beans, carrots, and parsnips may perhaps be got in towards the end of the month; but do not be in too great a hurry to get much of your land planted out. Rhubarb will be beginning to show itself above ground; you can easily bring it on by covering it with boxes, then heaping on manure or decayed leaves, and the same with sea-kale.

We can but just touch upon what should be done in the fruit-garden. Let the currants and gooseberries, apples and pears, be pruned at once. The raspberry-canoe, if not already done, must also be similarly served, and securely tied to their stakes. By the end of the month let the peaches and nectarines be also pruned and nailed up; but do not be too soon with these, as they want keeping back rather than encouraging, especially if they show signs of early blossoming. But look out for Jack Frost. He will be playing us tricks certainly for three, perhaps for four months yet, and often when we least expect him. Have therefore the old muslin curtains ready for your wall-fruit, or there will be no peaches and nectarines in September.

Space is failing me; but it is impossible to pass over, without a few words of admiration, the individual brass instruments. Perhaps the thrill of the trumpet, the treble of the family, requires least to be dwelt upon, so familiar is its beauty: most of us know its special function as exemplified in the third part of *The Messiah*, in accompanying the air, "The trumpet shall sound," or in the equally well-known air, "Let the bright seraphim," where its warm metallic brilliance is as summer evening sunlight gilding the voice part.

Of the same essential nature, but of lower pitch, are those instruments equally imposing to eye and ear—the trombones. This is the instrument which gives out the text in Mendelssohn's musical sermon, the religious *Lobgesang*—



All that has life and breath, sing to the Lord!

and it is in this work perhaps that the lover of music, desirous of educating himself to "listen well," will find the most accessible exemplification of its use.

I will not dwell upon the splendid ponderosity of the brass monsters called ophicleides or bombardons, which form a solid metal foundation for the brass section of the orchestra: there is, however, one brass instrument so exceptional in tone-stamp and shape that it must be brought to the attention—I would almost say the loving attention—of the listener to orchestral music. Soft as velvet, and full of living warmth, rich as the lower tones of the clarinet, and yet tender as the middle register of the flute, is the tone of that most remarkable instrument the horn. One feels, as one comes to each instrument in turn, a new enthusiasm; but nothing can make a true lover of orchestral music more enthusiastic than well-played horns. In picturesque suggestiveness there

is perhaps nothing amongst all the varied resources of the composer to equal these. They should be picked out by the eye for study by the ear, if nearly last, certainly not least.



KETTLE-DRUMS.

Nor, finally, must the listener to an orchestra fail to take account of a truly grand function, that of the drums. These instruments are not mere noise generators; they are tuned to notes prescribed by the composer, and they hurl their note upon the startled ear with forcible effect; or, by a roll, or a series of soft strokes, they make it pervade the very air, enveloping the more distinct musical speech of the other instruments with a cloud of musical thunder. As their voice is deep, so is their very silence an effect; and to the ear of an educated listener an orchestra is always incomplete without its kettle-drums.

GARDENING IN MARCH.



THE standards must now be carefully pruned, but, of course, only in good open weather, though unfortunately we not unfrequently have some of our most obstinate frosts in March. Generally then, let us say, prune strong-growing sorts lightly—*i.e.*, leave some seven or eight buds on each tall shoot—but the non-rampant growers must be pruned pretty sharply back to three or four eyes. Tender China roses should not be touched for another month. The now so popular Marshal Niel must also be left alone—must not be pruned at all, we mean. This and another, but more old-fashioned favourite, the Yellow Banksia—a pale buff that blooms in clusters like small double daisies—must not be shortened, but where the wood is, say, some three years old, and has become exhausted, cut out

the entire old branch from the very bottom. The Austrian Briar—another old friend—which has the same habit of growth, should be similarly treated. Now that you are among the roses see that they are well and securely fastened to their stakes, for recollect the equinoctial gales will soon be once again upon us. Get away all the starting suckers and shoots, and tread well the ground within a foot or so of your stock.

Attention must soon again be given to the lawn. We have been letting it take care of itself so long, that we shall be in danger of neglecting it altogether from mere force of habit, and from the press of spring work that is now overtaking us. In the cold weather only the coarser grass grows; the result is that in the early spring we have a lumpy and uneven surface in many places on our lawn. An excellent authority says: "The grass as soon as it becomes uneven should be mowed, whether in winter or summer; for by neglecting it until the more hardy kinds of grass get too much the ascendancy, the places where you observe

those tufts of higher growth would be of another colour when mowed, because only the stems would be seen." We have so often before adverted to the necessity that our climate imposes upon us of varying our garden operations in accordance not so much with the time of year as with the weather that we have for the time being, that it is difficult here, in speaking of the condition of our lawn, to avoid reference to the extraordinarily mild season that we had for the most part of last December. Probably some time before then most of our gardeners had considered that the lawn was "settled down" for the winter, whereas the mild south wind and soft rain made in many places the use of the scythe necessary little more than a week before Christmas.

The majority of the hardy and herbaceous plants which vanish in the winter months, will by the end of March have made their reappearance well above the ground, and not a few of them, especially in sheltered situations, will have done so before then. When this is the case, you can the more boldly and more thoroughly stir the ground and fork over the surface in which they are; but where this is done too soon, you incur a great risk of materially damaging the roots of your underground perennials. Once, however, that these are above the surface, you can afterwards take your rake over, and your border will rapidly assume a vernal and orderly appearance. Gravel walks, too, when wet, should be well rolled; it is better to avoid walking upon them overmuch, especially immediately after a thaw, when the entire surface of the soil is in a rotten and unbinding condition.

In the flower-garden, seeds of all kinds may be sown at once; and if you are in a hurry for flowers—and what gardener is not?—put a few sweet-peas in pots under glass; these will come on rapidly, and can afterwards be planted out in your borders: they will be in bloom naturally long before others that you have sown in the open. Biennials may be got in now for early blooming in the following year: those put in last year may now be planted out for flowering in the coming summer. And when your soil is light and in good order, get in plenty of mignonette. Rightly is it called "mignonette," for it is verily the "little darling" of flowers; it will bloom bravely in the open for the greater part of the year, and with the aid of the greenhouse, it is easy to have a succession of its fragrance all the year round.

In the kitchen and fruit garden there is of course plenty to be done. Potatoes should now be planted, the early ones at first, and the heavy crop as the month advances. Do not put them in too deep. Good and frequent hoeing among your growing crops is necessary now; this, if done pretty regularly from time to time, will keep the weeds down. Apropos of weeds, be careful to get out whenever you can the long

tapering roots of the bear-bine; the pigs, if nobody else, will thank you. I know, however, of a dear old gentleman who will never allow his gardener to remove it, on the score that it produces a pretty white flower, and for that reason he does not have it destroyed. We should, however, very much like to see his garden in July and August. It must be a horticultural curiosity.

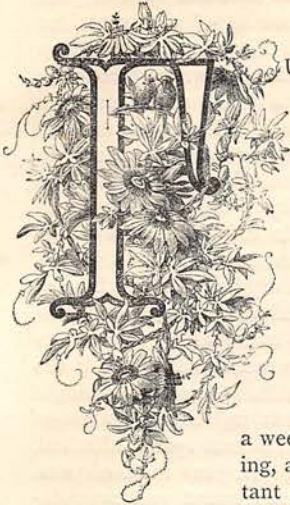
Asparagus-beds—the old-established ones—should be forked over, and their surface neatly raked. Be careful not to injure the tops of the heads, for by the end of the month they will be in a mild season making a good start; seeds for a fresh stock of young plants may be put in, but asparagus, more than anything else, wants patience; for it must be at the very least three or four years old before you can expect any produce fit for table. Peas may again be sown perhaps every two or three weeks. In fact, the general motto for this month—especially towards its close—must be, as "Mrs. Naggleton" would put it, "sow, sow, sow, all sow." For your onion-bed, choose an open spot of ground. It should have been previously well dug and well manured, then made level, and sown with your chief crop. It should be afterwards heavily rolled, or sufficiently so to press the seed thoroughly into the soil. Sea-kale and rhubarb should be covered up. I have often wondered why this last-named wholesome fruit—by the way, should we, strictly speaking, call it "a fruit?"—should for the most part be used only in April and May, and then, for no ostensible reason, allowed to retire into private life. In its early stages of pale pink, when we are accustomed to salute it in the shape of "spring-tart," it not unfrequently suggests the after expediency of brandy-and-water; whereas, later on in the year, it attains a far finer flavour, and can be pulled at intervals quite up to the end of August. There is no possible reason for neglecting it when spring has turned into summer; but we live in an age of luxury, extravagance, and love of change; soon growing tired of a thing, despising it because it is common. By the third week in March, it is time to bethink ourselves of preparing a hot-bed for the reception of cucumber and, a little later on, of melon-plants. Instructions for making the hot-bed were given in full last spring.

In the greenhouse things are all making a great start, and much repotting and shifting will speedily be necessary. Camellias that have done flowering should now be put into a warm house, and until next September—a long time to look forward to, nevertheless—should not be exposed to the sun.

"Exposed to the sun!" How small then must be our sympathy just now with these camellias; for here are we, all of us, full of the anticipation of Easter joys, and longing once more to see that sun from which these our winter flowers now want to hide their face!



GARDENING IN APRIL.



ULL of zeal, let us get out once again to the flowers. The winter has passed, and has most probably left the lawn and the gravel-walks in a very lumpy and rotten condition. Perhaps for too long a time have the scythe and the mowing machine been laid aside, and nothing in the garden tells the tale of neglect sooner than the lawn. Begin then, at once, a weekly habit of mowing, sweeping, and rolling; and it is important to commence this early in the spring. Mowing, at any rate,

is now essential. This will encourage the finer grass, and at the same time keep a check on the coarser, and very soon we shall get what may be called "a good sound bottom" for the whole lawn. Pull up the dandelion roots, if possible, in the way that you would a radish: the root must not be left in the ground. Do not allow your dogs to play on the turf. If you do, you will soon see here and there, on the spots they have most frequented, patches where the grass is apparently killed; while on the same places, two or three weeks afterwards, strong, dark, and rank grass makes its appearance, of quite a different colour from the rest of the lawn. After the first mowing or two you can then work with the machine. This modern invention is a great saver of time, and therefore eventually of expense; although some of us, perhaps, do not like to pay down fifty to sixty shillings and more for one. A small 6-inch one can, however, be had for a guinea, and can readily be worked by a child or a lady; though, of course, a 12-inch machine is better for general use. In using it, avoid pressing downwards upon the handle, but exert the force that you find necessary, in a

direction parallel with the surface of your lawn, and at starting set off with a momentary but slight jerk. The grass that you will speedily collect can afterwards be laid underneath and around your strawberry-plants, or piled up round the woodwork of your cucumber-frames, to add to your heat. By plunging your arm deep into your grass-heap, the next fine warm morning, you would be astonished to find the amount of heat thus so quickly generated. The gravel-walks, also, should now be generally cleaned, dressed, and well rolled, and the box edgings trimmed, and where necessary re-laid, so as to give at once a tidy and orderly appearance.

Some would perhaps say that, in this fickle climate of ours, the month of March was too early for getting in our annuals, but anyhow we must set about it now at once in good earnest. The extraordinarily wet and mild January produced, as we well know, a strange effect in the garden. Herbaceous plants were

well above the ground, as if it had been the middle of March, and the roses and fruit-trees put on a thoroughly spring appearance. It is in eccentric seasons of this kind that our real difficulty lies. Often we can do little more than look on; but it is well to recollect that, following upon a long period of wet, cold, &c., we have almost invariably the compensating one of drought or heat. Do not, therefore—especially at this time of the year—assume, because it is April, that the winter has passed away. From now up, perhaps, to July, annuals should be sown every month in succession, for the purpose of maintaining a constant bloom in your garden. Those put in at the present time will begin flowering in about ten or eleven weeks, with favourable weather. The soil must be well prepared, first of all, and made light and rich. The hyacinths and tulips will be coming



THE WALL-FLOWER.

well into flower now; they will want protection from any excessive frost, rain, or sun; it is impossible as yet to say to which of the three they will be exposed. In really dry weather give them a little water, and gently stir occasionally the surface of the

soil round them. Here and there a long stalk, topped by a heavy flower, had better be carefully, but not tightly, tied to a small stake or stick; otherwise the wind will, in all probability, break it off. Anemones, too, must be shaded from the sun; and a little manure-water, not very strong, will benefit them. Hollyhocks are, perhaps, rather vulgar and showy, but they look well among shrubs; those sown this month will flower the following year; indeed, all or nearly all of the thoroughly hardy perennials may be sown now. Very rarely, indeed, will they flower the same year that they are sown; nor do they require any but a poor soil. Towards the end of the month, the beds, in a well-advanced season, should be generally prepared for the formal "bedding out," for I suppose the mass of us dare not attempt as yet any variation from this rigid observance. We entered more fully into this question in November last, and need not, therefore, do more than advert here to the suggestions in general that we then made, which advocated a compromise between the old-fashioned garden and the modern furnace system—shall we call it so?—of scarlet geraniums for the red-hot coals, with bright yellow calceolarias for the flames; nothing else whatever, except in rare cases, relieving the monotony. Once again, let us say, we are unable to name each variety of any popular flower, and say how it should be treated during April; we can only make a selection. Carnations, for example, may now be moved into the pots in which they are to bloom; a good-sized pot will easily hold two, and as the month advances, those that you intend to bed out may be put in. The same may be said of your picotees. The deliciously-scented wall-flower and sweet-william may also now be sown; these two are for blooming in the following year.

In the green-house, especially where you have only limited room, this is a very difficult month in which to get on; for your entire stock of plants under glass have for some time past made the discovery that summer will, or ought to be, very soon here, and consequently have all made a wonderful start. Some plants you will find it necessary to shift into larger pots, and the more hardy of your flowers you might almost venture to remove now into some sheltered spot, previous to bedding-out by-and-by; but you must certainly give them some sort of protection or covering at night, while common sense will tell you not to remove them at all just yet, if in April, 1877, we are snowed up as some of us were in 1876. But if it be safe to try the experiment, your plants will certainly be more hardened, and better able to stand any of those sudden changes of temperature to which they may, even up to the middle of June, be exposed, sad though it is to suggest such an idea, after they have all been finally placed for the summer. Do not think, however, that your camellias and azaleas that have finished blooming can now be removed into the open. On the contrary, now that they are making their young wood they want warmth—a temperature, perhaps, of some 65°—nor must the soil of the pots in which they are, be too much soaked with water. Give also now plenty of fresh air daily.

In the kitchen-garden, if you were delayed last

month by the season, get in at once the bulk of your potato crop. Indeed, the sowing of all vegetables must now be completed. Artichokes—the Jerusalem ones we are speaking of—must be sown as potatoes: plant them in rows, 2½ feet to 3 feet apart, and give them a good supply of manure. With regard to sowing, let us say generally, in reply to any who may in their earlier gardening years be asking, "How am I to sow—how am I to go about it?"—Have your soil well prepared first of all, and made soft, loose, and sandy, and let your seed be only just covered with a similar light coating of soil, a good dry heap of which some gardeners recommend as advisable to have always—or particularly just now—at hand, as by this means sowing can sometimes be proceeded with, even if the weather be rather unfavourable. Once in a fortnight or three weeks, get more peas in, as also cabbages and some spinach. This last, if your space is limited, might perhaps be put in between your rows of peas. Indeed, it will be seen by our general recommendations that we have only the smaller and more modest gardens for the most part in view, and hence our suggestion to sow the same things repeatedly, the habit of which is naturally more serviceable for a moderate-sized household. What we have to say on this subject is necessarily of very little service to those who farm those large market-gardens so familiar to the eye of us all on approaching London by rail, and within the last eight or ten miles of the great smoky terminus. In this case, a large plot of land has to be cleared at one time and instantly prepared for another crop; but I think we should grumble if we found that our gardener had planted the entire kitchen-garden with, say, that not very particularly popular delicacy, parsnips. The moral of all this, then, to small home-gardeners is, economise your land as much as possible.



BRANCH AND BLOSSOM OF THE CURRANT.

Tomatoes: why do they so often fail, and turn black and rotten? Well, they should be sown now in a hotbed, and allowed to get thoroughly well forward before being planted out. This should not be until

the warm weather has really come, and then they should be put out against a wall looking well south. In a wet or bad summer, with only the ordinary attention, they very often fail entirely.

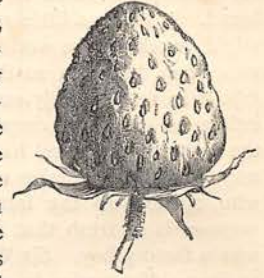


BUNCH OF CURRANTS.

Our vine under glass will soon want careful and increasing attention; those delicate shoots will require gently bending, by being tied in the direction you would have them to go; take care that you do not snap them off in the process. They grow very rapidly, and you will often, if you neglect them for too long, find here and there one that has pressed its head against the wood-work of your lights, and decapitated itself in consequence; hence the importance of this training, a fit emblem of the gentle, firm, and judicious guidance incumbent upon those who have to do with the more precious sapplings of humanity.

Gooseberries and currants will require attention also. Of late years, many have remarked the some-

what increasing devastation of the caterpillars upon their leaves. True, they confine their attention to the foliage, but the fruit terribly suffers in consequence. If you have time, gather the enemy by hand; this is certainly a difficulty if the caterpillars are not early discovered; the bushes might be shaken, and then syringed with lime-water; do not, then, forget the old proverb about "a stitch in time." Strawberries, when in bloom, may require some watering if very dry, but it is better to avoid beginning this practice as far as possible. Do not neglect, either, to give some sort of light protection to the peaches and nectarines if the nights are cold. In fact, you must now be always on the alert, when the season is making up its mind how and when to change. It is time, however, that we conclude, and we will do so with another old proverb—"Prevention is better than cure."



STRAWBERRY.

SONNET: THE WHITE ROSE.



MILK-WHITE rose! all pure and stainless white,
Without a tinge of colour, or a taint
Less exquisite than snow, no shade, no light
Other or else than white; like a fair saint,
With all the sanctity of beauty bright.
I'll call thee my beatitude, sweet rose!
Smiling but pale, and thy head meekly bent,

Gently and silently thy charms disclose,
And softly breathes thy aromatic scent.
Thou art a model of the pure in heart,
Moulded and sanctified by love divine,
And stamped with royalty in every part;
God's own white rose celestial, made to shine
In His own hallowed radiancy benign.

BENJAMIN GOUGH.

SOME TRIUMPHS OF POOR MEN.



O have to make notes of a lecture upon oyster-shells and the shoulder-blades of oxen, for lack of money to purchase proper tablets, would seem an impossible hardship to the luxurious students of our day. Cleanthes, a celebrated Greek philosopher, was so poor when he commenced his studies as to be obliged to do this, while working as a labourer, literally "a drawer of water," to get his daily bread. The same indomitable spirit, which will not be stayed by any obstacle, and which works, not for immediate personal and pecuniary gain, but for the sake of art or science itself, appears to have characterised Mr. Thomas Edward of Banff, to whom a pension has recently been granted. Perhaps few of the many gracious acts of Her Majesty the Queen exhibit her well-known desire to seek out and reward merit in a more pleasant light than this

gift. The letter announcing the pension of £50 per annum, stated that the Queen had been touched by his successful pursuit of natural science under all the cares and troubles of daily toil. Mr. Edward is a shoemaker, and was wholly dependent—like Cleanthes—upon the labour of his hands for his livelihood. He devoted all the time that he could spare to natural history, and accumulated a fund of original observations, without a thought of attaining notoriety. Without any expensive instruments, such as costly microscopes, or the other helps which wealth supplies, he searched and reflected silently; making no effort at publicity, but studying for study's sake. He was himself at last discovered, so to say, and appreciated by scientific men, who gave the name of *Praniza Edwardsii* to a new species of crustaceæ which he had found.

Not for yourselves, said the ancient poet, ye bees store up your honey, and in the spirit of true genius there is something of the same *sic vos non vobis* simplicity of purpose. Amid the exciting and selfish pursuit of money which is so marked a feature of the

GARDENING IN MAY.



T this season of the year we are, of course, full of our final preparations for bedding-out. Outside—*i.e.*, among our beds—the soil should be thoroughly prepared for the reception of the long-expected occupants. A little gentle, but very cautious digging, with perhaps a little top dressing, is needful. The spring flowers that have done their work should now be carefully removed; but, once again, take care of your bulbs—your tulips, hyacinths, &c. As long ago as last June we hinted at the necessity of this caution, but now that we are going the entire round of our flower-beds care is doubly necessary; nor, as we then said, must the half-faded foliage of your bulbs be interfered with; the whole must be carefully lifted and then stored away; if possible, it is far better to wait until the foliage has died down. Inside—*i.e.*, under your glass—and among the now, perhaps, overgrown and impatient

family of your plants that are longing for more space and freedom in their summer quarters on the lawn, careful watering and trimming are necessary; curtail all extravagant and overgrown branches, and give plenty of fresh air all day, leaving your lights a little open by night to facilitate or, at all events, to begin the process of hardening off your plants, that are so soon to be exposed to all the eccentric changes of an English summer.

The main object in the modern bedding-out system is to produce in each bed a mass of flowers of one colour. Very much, then, must be left to the good taste and common sense of your general arrangement. Avoid, therefore, combinations of colour that at once strike the eye as vulgar, or ill-matched: do not, in fact, have any bed of one colour whose tendency is to kill or destroy the effect of the adjoining one.

Blundering of this kind, indeed, necessarily involves mutual destruction. A good startling contrast is nearly always effective. Your plants should be as far as possible uniform in size, dwarf, compact of habit, free and permanent in their bloom, marked and distinct, and brilliant in their colour. Those of us, however, who from whatever cause are only able at this time to produce but a limited supply of bedding-out plants, need not lose heart. For such whose time, whose glass, and possibly whose pocket only admit of a very moderate floral display, we would especially here again advocate the admirable system of a compromise between the old-fashioned garden and the more popular and conventional bedding-out. Doubtless, then, our good friends have long before this stocked their gardens here and there with some good hardy perennials. Among these you can now bed out your geraniums, calceolarias, and verbenas, while if you have also foreseen that even with this you would still have some space unoccupied, some hardy and popular annuals were probably put in last month, and can now be turned out. But with the bedding-out plants, properly so called, begin with calceolaria and verbenas, as they are the most hardy.

Enough, then, has been said of all these proprieties of bedding-out; but we must have a word about the roses. All nature is making a prodigious start, weeds, thistles, and briars to boot; look, then, carefully and constantly now along your rose-stocks, and rub and break off all the small breaking buds that you see; these it is that rob the head of its strength and growth; and it is, therefore, necessary now to look through your stocks quite twice a week. The suckers, too, that will be making their appearance in all directions must be positively grubbed up. Do not be content with lazily pinching off their pink heads only, when they show above ground. Look well also to the shoots of the buds that you, let us hope successfully, managed last year. They will be now making rapid growth, and will therefore require protection from the wind that, nevertheless, after this lapse of time since your budding of last July, is able to damage them materially, and even to blow them out. One of the best preventives of this calamity is to tie, first of all, a stick to your stock that will reach quite a foot above it, then to this stick tie loosely any of your weakly shoots. The same stick can, of course, easily support several shoots. Do all you can to prevent your stock from growing from its own wood; this can, of course, only be done by the above-mentioned perpetual pinching off of the buds along it, so that the whole strength may be thrown into your young shoots.

Annuals of all kinds may now be sown in the open. There is no possible occasion for further delay. If done at once, they will come rapidly on, bloom, and enable you to gather seed from them easily before they die. Their most popular names are familiar to all of us—sweet-peas, larkspur, convolvulus, lupin, ten-week stocks, &c. &c.; these will come well in to

follow those that, as we suggested just now, had probably been sown in pots a month ago, and which you have just interspersed among other plants of your old-fashioned garden. Biennials, too, of nearly all kinds may be sown now—such, *e.g.*, as the sweet-william, wallflower, &c. The conservatory and greenhouse by this time should have a gay appearance. Remove all faded flowers and dead leaves from your plants daily, otherwise their constant fall of their own accord becomes an untidy nuisance; but to avoid this, a good gentle but judicious tap against the main stem of any plant that is showing a disposition to shed its foliage or bloom, is a great assistance to it. In all directions you will perhaps see that re-potting is necessary, and be particularly careful just now not to neglect watering, though at the same time not to overdo it; recollect the old adage, "Enough is as good as a feast." While your flowers are in a growing condition, their healthy progress would be seriously impeded by a short supply of water. If you have got in any cuttings of chrysanthemums last month, they should now be potted off singly, when you have ascertained that they have thoroughly rooted. Set them out of doors, where they can have sun and shelter. Put them on a board to prevent any worms, &c., from getting into them, and give them plenty of water. To any plants so arranged outside, look pretty frequently on the sheltered and concealed side of your flower-pot, where you will probably at intervals come upon a fine slug or snail that has taken up his abode there. The lawn—no matter how insignificant its size to be deserving of so pretentious a name—will occupy a provoking amount of time; nevertheless it must be seen to regularly. Soon after the birds begin to sing is the best time for the mowing machine; a gardener who in the early morning thinks the flower-bed a secondary consideration to his own, had better at once abandon his craft. Roll and sweep the gravel walks pretty frequently: do not press too hard with your broom and find yourself at the finish, as some clumsy hands do, with half a wheel-barrow-full of fine top gravel by your side, and both the broom and its owner considerably worn out.

In the kitchen garden, most of your land is probably planted out. If you can find the room, continue the fortnightly sowing of peas: always, as we have so often before said, aim at having a supply of vegetables in succession. Cabbages sown now will come in well for the autumn. Prick out cauliflowers also, and any vegetables sown a month or more previously. Do not plant out your tomatoes until quite the end of the month or early in June; put them against a south wall, between your fruit-trees if you will: they want plenty of hot sun, and will certainly fail if they don't get it. Your celery also, if it is forward enough

to handle well, may be planted in trenches. You will want plenty of rotten manure, but we have on a former occasion given full directions as to the best way of making a celery-bed. Potatoes must be carefully hoed and earthed up; and from the sea-kale clear away all the manure, leaves, straw, &c., with which you forced it on; it will tell-in most conveniently at some future time when dry, so do not be too fond of that idle and dirty affair, a bonfire; perhaps almost the only things that should be burnt are hedge trimmings, thorny gooseberry cuttings, and weeds. Do not be too hasty in cutting your asparagus, let it grow some three inches above the ground before you apply the knife, but weed the bed carefully by hand. The beet-root also will require thinning and hoeing. Those left in the ground where they were originally sown will thrive the best; still, if you are very careful in removing the rest, and do not break or at all injure the fibre in any way, you may safely plant them out elsewhere.

In the fruit garden, perhaps, there is not quite so much to be done as yet. If the season be obstinately dry, the strawberries must have water; but, if any at all, give them plenty of it: they will be content with nothing less, as they are hard drinkers, but do not be in too great a hurry to begin the watering. If they are blooming freely, tie up their flowering stalks to neat little sticks; this assists them in their general growth and colouring, and keeps them from being soiled by the earth; but it wants a tender hand, or you may break off short your entire strawberry-stalk. If the gooseberry and currant grubs had not fully developed themselves last month, depend upon it they will do so now; indeed it is to be feared that the mild January and February that we had, may have strengthened and emboldened the caterpillar tribe in general, so that war to the knife will have to be declared against them. The children will be useful here if set to gather them, stimulated by a reward, say, of one penny a hundred. By the end of the month, in a thoroughly forward season, the gooseberries might perhaps be thinned out for bottling. Recollect this must be done when they are green and hard, but it is not our province to enter into the preserving department. The first thinning may be given to the peaches, but not a severe one, in case of future accident or failure. The trees themselves

too will want attention. Remove with the knife or rub off all useless buds and shoots which stick out provokingly perpendicular to the wall, or wherever else they may be growing in unnecessary profusion, though in a right direction. Some of the shoots, where there is room for it, might perhaps be bent



down to the wall's surface. Encourage and secure loosely the vine-shoots that you want to fruit next year; and among the raspberry-canes take away all wood that is not required for the following season.